

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 SAM-01

/086 W

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R 091629Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6349

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB

SUBJECT: MASSIVE LABOR DEMONSTRATION IN BILBAO

1. JULY 9 PRESS CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF MASSIVE BUT PEACEFUL
DEMONSTRATION OF 100,000 TO 150,000 DAY BEFORE IN BILBAO.
SPONSORED BY COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES SINDICALES
DE VIZCAYA (COS-BASQUE "UNITY OF ACTION" COORDINATION
ORGANIZATION GOUPING NON-COMMUNIST UNIONS UGT, USO, BASQUE
STV AND PCE-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS), THE TWO-HOUR
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DEMONSTRATION WAS CALLED TO DEMAND "REHIRING OF ALL WORKERS

DISMISSED FOR LABOR OR POLITICAL MOTIVES." ACCORDING TO PRESS, SECURITY FORCES DID NOT RPT NOT INTERVENE AT ANY TIME.

2. AMCON BILBAO OFFICERS WHO MONITORED DEMONSTRATION COMMENTED TO EMBASSY AS FOLLOWS: MARCH OF ESTIMATED 100,000 WORKERS WAS LARGEST IN RECENT MEMORY. DEMONSTRATION WAS SPIRITED, GOOD-HUMORED AND EXTREMELY WELL-ORGANIZED WITH MARCHERS POLICING THEMSELVES THROUGH USE OF ARMBANDED CROWD MARSHALS. BANNERS CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CALLS FOR "LIBERTY AND AMNESTY", WITH NO REFERENCE TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT OR BASQUE INDEPENDENCE PITCH. THERE WERE NO POLICE IN EVIDENCE, AND CROWD BROKE UP IN ORDERLY FASHION FOLLOWING MARCH.

3. COMMENT: THE DICIPLINE AND ORGANIZATION OF THIS LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN THE USUALLY VOLATILE BASQUE REGION WAS IMPRESSIVE. THE TOLERANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES COULD BE AN INDICATION THAT THE NEW SUAREZ GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO INTERFERE OR OVERREACT TO PEACEFUL WORKER DEMONSTRATIONS. THE NEW INTERIOR MINISTER, FORMER SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER MARTIN VILLA, WILL OBVIOUSLY BE SETTING THE TONE IN THIS RESPECT. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
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